

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 01132 261208Z

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ACTION EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NIC-01 L-02 SAJ-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PL

SUBJECT: AIR POLLUTION PROGRAMS IN POLAND

REF: STATE 037774

1. RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION, COMBINED WITH A COAL-POWERED ECONOMY, HAVE RAISED AIR POLLUTION TO A NATIONAL CONCERN FOR POLAND. THE DENSELY POPULATED SILESIAN INDUSTRIAL BASIN PRESENTS THE SEVEREST PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH NO AREA IN POLAND CAN BE CONSIDERED POLLUTION FREE. HOWEVER, THIS CONCERN HAS YET TO BE TRANSLATED INTO A COHERENT REGULATORY AND CONTROL PROGRAM. THERE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, NO NATIONAL AIR QUALITY OR AUTO EMISSION CRITERIA AT PRESENT.

2. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM PRESENTS UNUSUAL DIFFICULTIES IN THIS CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMY. PLANT MANAGERS CONTINUE TO USE THE ARGUMENT THAT AIR POLLUTION REGULATIONS WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT PRODUCTION. IT APPEARS THAT IN MOST CASES THE DECISION FAVORS PRODUCTION RATHER THAN AIR QUALITY, UNLESS AN OBVIOUS HEALTH DANGER IS INVOLVED.

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 01132 261208Z

3. THE USE OF INDIVIDUAL COAL-FIRED FURNACES FOR HOME

HEATING IS ANOTHER MAJOR URBAN AIR POLLUTION SOURCE. THE REPLACEMENT OF COAL FURNACES BY CITY HOT WATER HEATING IN WARSAW AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CITIES IS AN ATTEMPTED SOLUTION, ALTHOUGH CENTRAL HEATING PLANTS CREAT ANOTHER SOURCE OF POLLUTION. POLISH AUTHORITIES CLAIM THAT THE BURNING OF COAL WITH MORE THAN TWO PERCENT SULPHUR CONTENT COAL IS PROHIBITED WITHIN CITIES, HOWEVER, SULPHUR OXIDES AND PARTICULATES REMAIN A CONSTANT PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY IN WINTER.

4. AIR POLLUTION RESEARCH IS VIGOROUSLY PURSUED IN POLAND, BOTH WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF REGIONAL ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS. BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, INDUSTRY, AND HEALTH SERVICES, THE POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT LONG-TERM EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON LOW-LEVEL POLLUTANT EXPOSURE IS PARTICULARLY PROMISING HERE. HTERE ARE NOW THREE ACTIVE SFCP AIR POLLUTION PROJECTS AND EIGHT PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA.

DAVIES

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